



Tempe Art in Private Development



**Hewson
Hohokam Center**
1480 S. Hohokam Drive

**Niki Glen &
Helen Helwig**
Hohokam Reflections, 1998

Handmade tiles and stone

Artist Website:

www.GlenStudios.com

www.HelwigStudio.com

Description: Three curved walls by artists Niki Glen and Helen Helwig were created to frame and enhance the building's entryway. The surface of the walls displays beautiful tile and river rock mosaics. The colors, textures and shapes of the handmade clay tiles were inspired by the ancient Indian cultures of the area, the native plants of the Sonoran Desert and the Rio Salado riparian system, as well as the architectural and landscaping elements of the site. Many symbolic references to night and day, the stars and the sun and constellations and the importance of water, the earth and many plants and vegetables as well as the river for the lives of Native Americans living in the desert were alluded to in this piece. The title of the piece refers to both the ancient Hohokam culture and the mirror effect of the glass entrance as it reflects the sculptures. The overall composition represents the layers within the earth and connects the past with the present. *Hohokam Reflections* earned the Hewson Hohokam Center team a Beautification Award for Art in Private Development Excellence in 2000.

Artist biography: Southwest Public Art Group (SWPAG) specializes in high-quality public, corporate and individual art commissions that both delight the eye and enhance community life. Professional artists Helen Helwig and Niki Glen work together to create high quality public art. Helwig brings more than 25 years of experience in clay design and fabrication, and Glen has directed more than 50 community public art projects. Both artists have directed many large-scale public art installations. Recent projects have included installations at a hospital, a public library, a new office complex entryway and a bus shelter. Helwig is an award-winning clay artist who develops innovative glaze techniques and Glen is an outstanding designer and muralist.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer, Hewson Company, as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.